



WHERE TO STAY

THINGS TO SEE & DO

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

REASONS TO STAY



The race will feature a 5K trail run through the Lynch River County Park where racers will get a glimpse of the park and wooded riverside trails. After the run, racers will grab their kayak and paddle 5 miles downstream on the scenic & historic Lynch River. The race finishes at the Hwy 52 river bridge. Participants and boats will be shuttled back to the park for post-race festivities including awards, vendors, entertainment, food, and beverages. Boats will be available for rent from River Rats and Lynch River County Park. Boats must be reserved in advance.

Adventure Race Categories

Individual – Participant runs and also paddles.

Below – 1 participant runs and then the other participant paddles.

Sports

Event Tags:

community, competition, Florence, healthy living, hobby, Outdoors, Race, recreation/hobby

VENUE

Lynch River County Park

5094 County Park Road
Coward, SC 29530 United States

Phone:

843-389-0550

[View Venue Website](#)

ORGANIZER

Keep Florence Beautiful

Phone:

843-779-5332

[View Organizer Website](#)

https://scnow.com/news/keep-florence-beautiful-event-draws-kayak-racers/article_efd5ea36-faaa-11ea-aba2-c7d885160efa.html

Keep Florence Beautiful event draws kayak racers

TRACI BRIDGES Special to the Morning News
Sep 19, 2020



Kayaks are waiting for the adventure.

TRACI BRIDGES/SPECIAL TO THE MORNING NEWS

TRACI BRIDGES Special to the Morning News

EFFINGHAM, S.C. — Nature enthusiasts from across the Carolinas took to extremely high water and currents Saturday as part of the inaugural Keep Florence Beautiful Lynches River Adventure Race & Trail 5K.

Kayaks lined the banks and landing under the Joey C. Rodgers bridge in Effingham, as racers completed the two-leg event with a five-mile paddle.

The race began early Saturday morning with a 5K trail run through the wooded riverside trails of Lynches River County Park. Once racers completed the run, they jumped in kayaks to paddle five miles downstream to the U.S. 52 landing/bridge. From there, participants and their boats were shuttled back to the park courtesy of RiverRats Kayak Adventures.

More than 100 people registered in the various event categories, which included individual, tandem and relay in all male, all female and mixed divisions.

Tammy Ayala of Florence said she particularly enjoyed the trail run and was thrilled to see one planned for the Florence area.

“There aren’t many trail races like this. Usually, you’d have to go to Columbia or maybe Charleston to find a trail race, so I think this is a great thing for Florence,” Ayala said. “And it was a very good trail race. The trail itself has sand, boardwalk, different elevations. It offers a good variety.”

This year, runners who did not want to participate in the kayaking portion of the event were not required to do so; however, participants had to do the run to be able to do the kayak leg of the event. Next year, organizers said, the event may include a kayak “fun” paddle for those who just want to do the water portion of the event.

This year’s participants seemed happy with the race set-up. There were no complaints and most everyone had positive things to say about the event.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Daniel Jankoski of Charlotte, N.C. , adding that he and his girlfriend signed up for the event as soon as they heard about it and made the trip to Florence specifically to participate. “I haven’t kayaked in probably four years, but we were a tandem team and we still did pretty well out there. It’s a great event, and we had a good time.”

Cathy Bouras of Florence agreed. She’s a paddling regular on Lynches River but said Saturday was more fun than usual, thanks to high water levels.

“With the river so high, it was so much fun, just a great time,” Bouras said. “We’re on the river all the time, but a lot of these people are not. So it was fun and with the river so high, the organizers did a great job of keeping everything safe for everyone. I loved it. I’m ready to do it again.”

Fortunately for Bouras and others who enjoyed Saturday, they will get the chance to do it again – but they’ll have to wait a year. KFB board member and race event chair Bobby Moore said the event was such a success, KFB board members all agree that it will become KFB’s primary fundraiser going forward.

“Most definitely, we’ll be doing it again next year,” Moore said. “Everybody’s saying what a great time they had, and we couldn’t be more pleased with the turnout. It’s been a great day.”

Moore posed the idea of an adventure race to his fellow board members last year after he participated in a similar event, the Ashley River Adventure Race in Charleston.

Eventually, Moore said, KFB organizers hope to coordinate in some manner with the Ashley Hall race and a similar event in Beaufort County.

“Ultimately, that’s where we’d like to go. We’d like to make it a statewide event, maybe a special competition for those who compete in all three,” Moore said. “We’re not sure exactly how we’re going to do it, but the plan is to cross promote tourism in each others’ counties and in South Carolina as a whole and give participants different rivers and different trails to compete on.”

KFB’s mission is to engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving Florence County through the visual aspects of our community. Proceeds from the KFB Lynches River Adventure will assist in the funding of its various programs.

In creating the event, The Board of Directors hopes to bring attention to the asset Florence County has in the Lynches River and The Lynches River county park so a portion of the race participants registration fee will also go back to the park and the

river. The remaining proceeds will be put back into other community projects throughout Florence County, as KFB wants to have a presence countywide, not just in the city of Florence.

“It is our goal, especially now, to grow our reach into the county and we thought the park system was a perfect place to start,” Bailey said. “It is a natural partnership, especially since every year, in September we host a River Sweep, along with DNR and Palmetto Pride.”

For more information about Keep Florence Beautiful, visit **www.keepflorencebeautiful.org**.

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https://scnow.com/news/local/run-for-brighter-days-blisters-lynches-river-county-park-course/article_f9ec33e8-131f-11ec-a8f0-7fbcf7da813e.html

TOP STORY

Run for Brighter Days blisters Lynchs River County Park course

STAFF REPORTS

Sep 11, 2021



Parker Lilly finishes fourth Saturday in the Run for Brighter Days at Lynchs River County Park in Coward.

Matthew Robertson/Morning News

STAFF REPORTS

COWARD, S.C. – The Run for Brighter Days Saturday morning at Lynchess River County Park may have featured the fastest 5K to have been run competitively in Florence County this year – and possibly for several years.

Ediberto Crisanto sprinted the course on a cool fall morning in 16:21, minutes ahead of second-place Andrew Pattengill with a time of 19:11. Frankie Humphrey finished third with a time of 20:45 and Parker Lilly fourth with a time of 21:38.

Shawn Hendrix was the first female across the finish line at 23:03 followed shortly by her daughter, Emma Kate Hendrix, at 24:38.

The annual event raises money for the Jonathan Foundation, which works to fight teen suicide.

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Frank Sterle

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https://scnow.com/townnews/finance/race-will-raise-funds-for-beautification-efforts-in-florence-county/article_b8fbbab2-ee08-11ea-aabb-e7fcd115ee57.html

KEEP FLORENCE BEAUTIFUL

Race will raise funds for beautification efforts in Florence County

TRACI BRIDGES Special to the Morning News

Sep 8, 2020

EFFINGHAM, S.C. — Suffering from the quarantine blues? Had enough of sitting around the house, bingeing on Netflix?

If so, Keep Florence Beautiful has just the remedy for you: a little outdoor adventure.

Registration is underway for the first KFB Lynches River Adventure Race & Trail 5K, which will kick off bright and early Sept. 19 at Lynches River County Park in Effingham.

The race will feature a 5K trail run through Lynches River County Park, giving racers a scenic running route through the park and its wooded riverside trails. Once racers complete the run, they'll take to the water by kayak and paddle 5 miles downstream on scenic Lynches River. The race finishes at the U.S. 52 river bridge, where trucks and vans will wait to shuttle participants and boats back to the park for an awards ceremony.

Categories include individual, tandem and relay in all-male, all-female and mixed divisions.

Runners who do not want to participate in the kayaking portion of the event are not required to do so; however, this year, participants won't be allowed to do the kayak leg if they aren't participating in the 5K. Next year, the event may include a kayak "fun" paddle for those who just want to do the water portion of the event.

Bobby Moore, KFB board member and race event chairman, posed the idea of an adventure race to his fellow board members last year after he participated in a similar event, the Ashley River Adventure Race in Charleston.

“The Ashley River race was such a great event that on the way home, I started thinking, ‘We could do this in Florence,’” Moore said. “Our race was completely inspired by the Ashley River race, and the organizers of that event have been a big help to us in getting ours planned.”

Planning has been underway for some time, but as with most events this year, COVID-19 has made things difficult for organizers. Still, Moore said, all necessary safety precautions are being taken, and registration already has drawn about 30 participants from across the Carolinas.

“One of the first people to register was from Charlotte, so even though this is new, word is already getting out,” Moore said. “People seem to be excited about it.”

Eventually, Moore said, KFB organizers hope to coordinate in some manner with the Ashley Hall race and a similar event in Beaufort County.

“Ultimately, that’s where we’d like to go. We’d like to make it a statewide event, maybe a special competition for those who compete in all three,” Moore said. “We’re not sure exactly how we’re going to do it, but the plan is to cross promote tourism in each others’ counties and in South Carolina as a whole and give participants different rivers and different trails to compete on.”

The Adventure Race will serve as KFB’s primary fundraiser going forward. In the past, the organization held a beer fest each fall, but KFB President Michelle Bailey said the group’s board wanted to go in a different direction.

“It was time,” Bailey said. “With the changes in beer licensure, we were no longer able to host our annual Brew Fest without it being a cost to us as an organization. With that, Bobby (Moore) had recently attended the Ashley River Adventure Race and proposed that we try it here in Florence. It really was a no-brainer for us, and we saw it as a natural fit to our organization and the direction we are headed.”

KFB's mission is to engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving Florence County through the visual aspects of our community. Proceeds from the KFB Lynches River Adventure will assist in the funding of its various programs.

In creating the event, the board hopes to bring attention to the asset Florence County has in the Lynches River and the Lynches River County Park, so a portion of the race participants registration fee will also go back to the park and the river. The remaining proceeds will be put back into other community projects throughout Florence County, as KFB wants to have a presence countywide, not just in the city of Florence.

“We have not had the history with the county that we wish to have, mainly because of our own manpower or lack thereof,” Bailey said. “To support the whole county would be cost prohibitive for an organization that not only is all volunteer based but that works on a budget of \$5,000 a year. Any other monies we have are all through fundraisers, just like the Adventure Race. It is our goal, especially now, to grow our reach into the county, and we thought the park system was a perfect place to start. It is a natural partnership, especially since every year, in September we host a River Sweep, along with DNR and Palmetto Pride.”

The Adventure Race is rain or shine unless thunder/lightning/flooding/severe weather is forecast. Business and community co-sponsors of the event with Keep Florence Beautiful and Lynches Rivers County Park include Willcox Buyck & Williams, River Rats, Pluff Mudd Recycling, King & Love, Desizns Signs and Three Wren.

RACE DAY SCHEDULE

KFB Lynches River Adventure Race & Trail 5K

Saturday, Sept. 19

- **6:30 to 9 a.m.** – In-vehicle packet pick up, kayak rental check-in. Check in at 5094 County Park Road.
- **9:15 a.m.** – Race info and announcements, runners line up (all runners will gather at starting line before the start for pre-race instructions).
- **9:30 a.m.** – Adventure Race starts.
- **10 a.m.** – Adventure Racers start entering the river and 5K runners start finishing.
- **11:30 a.m.** – Adventure Racers start arriving at landing, and shuttle back starts.
- **1 p.m.** – Facebook Live announcement of winners.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Registration closes Sept. 16. Kayak rentals will be available through River Rats and Lynches River County Park and must be reserved in advance. If a participant rents a kayak, it will be at the race start along with equipment and will be picked up from the take-out at the bridge.

For more information about the race or to register, visit florenceadventure.com or lynchesriversadventure.com/itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=13542.

For more information about Keep Florence Beautiful, visit keepflorencebeautiful.org.

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Frank Sterle

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